



CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | MAY 2026



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5 EASY WAYS TO LOWER YOUR DEMAND *WITHOUT CHANGING YOUR LIFESTYLE*

When it comes to managing your energy use, timing can matter just as much as how much electricity you use. Peak demand refers to the time of day when electricity use across the community is at its highest — typically in the late afternoon and early evening.

Reducing energy use can help lower overall system costs, support reliable service and keep energy more affordable for everyone. The good news is that lowering your peak demand doesn't require major lifestyle changes.

1. AVOID RUNNING BIG APPLIANCES AT THE SAME TIME

Running major appliances at the same time can spike your energy use — check your Usage Dashboard to spot peaks and stagger tasks to keep demand lower.

2. USE TIMERS AND DELAYED START FEATURES

Many appliances have built-in timers — set them to run later to avoid overlap and keep your peak demand lower.

3. LET YOUR THERMOSTAT DO THE WORK

Smart thermostats help prevent energy peaks by automatically adjusting the temperature to keep your A/C system from running alongside other appliances.

4. CHARGE YOUR EV OVERNIGHT

If you drive an electric vehicle, schedule overnight charging so it starts after other appliances power down, helping avoid demand spikes.



5. SPREAD OUT HOT WATER USE

Showers, dishwashers, and laundry all activate your water heater, so spacing them out helps avoid added demand peaks.

With just a few simple adjustments, you can manage your peak demand while keeping the comfort and convenience you're used to. OUC's Usage Dashboard and Appliance Calculator can help. Access these FREE tools at [OUC.com/myusage](https://www.ouc.com/myusage).

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Keep Yourself and Your Family Safe With These Tips.

National Electrical Safety Month is a great reminder that electricity powers our lives, but it must always be used safely. A few simple precautions can help prevent serious injuries or property damage.

- Check cords regularly for damage
- Avoid overloading outlets
- Keep electrical devices away from water
- Teach children to stay away from outlets, power lines and pad-mounted transformers
(big green box in your yard if you have underground utilities)
- Never remove the third prong from plugs
- Only use outdoor-rated extension cords outside
- Install GFCI outlets in kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor areas
- Always shut off power before performing any electrical work



Taking a few minutes to review electrical safety at home and at work can prevent accidents and keep everyone safe — not just this month but all year long. Get more safety tips at [OUCblog.com/electricsafety](https://www.ouc.com/blog/electricsafety).



Lessen Your Demand Tip: *Schedule an Energy Audit*

Small improvements around your home can make a big difference in how much energy you use — and how much you pay each month. Insulation, air leaks and the efficiency of your appliances all play a role in your overall electric use and demand.

OUC can help you find the best opportunities to save. Schedule a **FREE** in-home audit, and an OUC conservation specialist will evaluate your home's energy efficiency and recommend upgrades that can help you save money. Get more details at OUCblog.com/audit.

OUC Customer Uses 40% Less Electricity

OUC customers who received a conservation audit and then took advantage of the Efficiency Delivered® program saw an average 9% reduction on their electric bill. Through the program, OUC covers up to 85% of the cost, based on income, to complete recommended efficiency improvements such as adding attic insulation, tuning up A/C systems, installing weather stripping and more. Participants are connected with a preferred contractor to perform the improvements, making the process simple and convenient.

“Fantastic! OUC came to the house to figure out what was the best way to proceed. All of it went well. The work was extensive, and they were all great. I am using less electricity than before, probably 40% less.” – **Efficiency Delivered® program customer**

THANK YOU

FOR PARTNERING
TOGETHER

We're truly grateful for how our community responded during the arctic blast that impacted Central Florida in late January/early February. The prolonged cold put unusual stress on the electric grid, and your efforts to reduce demand during the coldest morning hours made a difference. By being mindful of your energy use, you helped keep power flowing safely and reliably when it mattered most.

Replace or Upgrade Your Windows with an OUC Rebate



Save on Cooling Costs Thanks to Increased Efficiency

Upgrade to ENERGY STAR® certified windows with better insulation and energy efficiency. OUC offers a \$1.50 per square foot rebate, in the form of bill credits, for qualifying window replacements that can help reduce your heating, cooling and lighting costs. Not ready for new windows? Window film, available with a 55¢ per square foot rebate, can help reduce your A/C use (and electric bill) by blocking solar rays.

Don't compromise on comfort and don't miss the potential savings. Learn how to qualify for these rebates at OUC.com/getgreen.

Para ver toda nuestra información en español, por favor visite espanol.ouc.com.



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